

REMARKS

With this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1 and 9; therefore, claims 2-8 are all the claims currently pending in this Application.

Applicants note that the Examiner has failed to consider the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement of February 22, 2006. Applicants respectfully request that a signed and initialed copy of the modified PTO/SB/08 form submitted with the February 22, 2006 IDS be returned with the next Office communication.

Allowable Subject Matter and Claim Amendments

The Examiner indicates that claims 5 and 6(5) contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form including the limitations of the claims from which they depend.

With this Amendment, Applicants rewrite claim 5 into independent form including the limitations of claim 1. Claims 1 and 9 are cancelled. Claims 2, 7, and 8, which previously depended on claim 1 are amended to depend from claim 5. Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 2. Claim 6 is amended to depend, in the alternative, from claims 2-5.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of claims 2-8.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Kosugi (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0135630). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kosugi in view of Parry (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0194061). Claims 6(1)-6(3) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly

unpatentable over Kosugi in view of Dietl (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0063760). Claim 6(4) stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kosugi in view of Parry and Dietl.

With this Amendment, claims 1 and 9 are cancelled and claims 2-8 are amended as discussed above. Therefore, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 2-8 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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